



Wrinkle Resistant/ Permanent Press Battle Dress Uniforms (BDUs)

Overview:

Currently, soldiers in a garrison environment are required that they starch their uniforms to maintain a sharp and wrinkle-free appearance. The frequent starching and pressing stiffens and degrades the fibers and adds a substantial cost to the item. This maintenance added cost is incurred by the soldiers. Commanding officers as well as soldiers have expressed the need for a sharp looking uniform that requires minimum care.

Description:

The application of a permanent press/wrinkle-free treatment to all BDUs will provide all military personnel with permanent wrinkle-free, creased and neater appearance with a minimum care at a one time added cost of approximately \$7.00 per uniform.

Status:

Both Enhanced Hot Weather and Temperate Battle Dress Uniforms have been successfully treated with commercially available permanent press technology and its performance evaluated exposure to more than fifty washing and drying cycles.

Ninety seven permanent press treated uniforms have been field tested by the 14th Engineer Battalion at Fort Lewis, WA for a period of four months. Although, some minor improvements were needed, the overall idea of a permanent press uniform was well received by the soldiers due to cost and care savings.

Subsequently, the Marine Corps has funded a small effort to incorporate the necessary improvements and field test the improved permanent press uniforms for six months at Quantico, VA. After 2 1/2 months of daily wear and washing, the majority of the Marines found the easy care, low maintenance cost to be a very desirable property and would like to see in the system a permanent press treated uniform as an optional item.

Point of Contact:

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